

Reassignment in response to COVID-19

I hope this message finds you well given everything you're dealing with at work and home. The purpose of this message is to provide you with an overview of our evolving reassignment process in response to COVID-19.

As many of you know, Governor Walz's Executive Order 20-21 provides state agencies deemed Priority 1 or Priority 2 critical services with the ability to reassign employees to fill essential roles on a temporary basis during the peacetime emergency. Because the DOC is identified as a critical service we are also able to accept redeployed state employees to help support ongoing operations.

Earlier this week, the DOC reassigned a small group of staff to provide much needed support at MCF-Moose Lake. We're grateful for their willingness to respond. We've also learned a lot about how to perform reassignment through their experience. We're continuing to work through the most effective way to do this as the reassignment requests are submitted from facilities impacted by COVID-19.

Here are some important points regarding reassignment:

1. **Volunteers are welcome.** If you are interested in providing assistance to your colleagues through temporary reassignment, then reach out to amy.chamberlain@state.mn.us or tracy.hosking@state.mn.us as soon as possible.
2. **Reassignment is a response to a critical need.** If you have previous security experience or are capable of providing security support, then you might be reassigned if there is a critical need. Our commitment is to provide you with as much advance notice as possible so you can plan accordingly. No staff will be reassigned if they meet the Paid COVID Leave policy criteria.
3. **No inter-facility reassignment.** One of our key principles guided by public health expertise is to prevent or minimize inter-facility movement. To the extent possible, we will not be reassigning facility staff to another facility.
4. **Opportunities for permanent roles.** As you know, we have security openings at many of our facilities and will work with any employee seeking a permanent reassignment to serve. If you are interested in seeking a permanent opportunity, please connect with your local HR representative.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about the reassignment process. Thank you so much for the service and sacrifice you and your family members are providing to our fellow Minnesotans through this challenging time.

Stay safe, and stay healthy!

Marcus Schmit
Assistant Commissioner, Operations Support Division